[18th August 1925

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Location of a meat-stall in Tiruvannamalai.

* 31 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the municipality of Tiruvannamalai has permitted an unlicensed butcher's shop to be opened in a public place adjacent to the principal car-street;

12 noon.

(b) whether the orthodox Hindu population protested against the location of the said meat-stall;

(c) whether a public meeting of the citizens of Tiruvannamalai passed unanimous resolutions urging the immediate removal of the meat-stall to a less objectionable locality and whether copies of the protest were sent to the Municipal Council, the Collector of North Arcot and to the District Superintendent of Police;

(d) whether the meat-stall has not been so removed; and

(e) what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information.

(e) They do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it permissible to open butcher shops without a licence from the municipality ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is a question of law. I think they have to obtain the licence."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government see that if there is no licence issued the site is changed ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, whether there should be a change of the site or not is a matter left to the discretion of the Municipal Council."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" If I have understood the hon. the Chief Minister rightly, the person who wants to have a shop for selling meat has to take out a licence ; but the municipality does not attend to this duty and see that the gentleman takes out a licence or changes the site. In that case, does the hon. the Chief Minister tell us that it is entirely left to the discretion of the municipal council ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is quite open to the hon. Member to ask the municipal council to take cognizance of this matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is the hon. the Minister aware that there is a widespread faction in the municipality on account of this and that they could not get any relief by appealing to the chairman ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government are not aware of the existence of any faction."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it not the concern of the hon. the Chief Minister that the feelings of the Hindus of a pilgrim centre like Tiruvannamalai are affected by the presence of such a meat shop in a car street there ? "

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Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—"May I know what kinds of meats are sold in the shops that are considered objectionable by the Hindus?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"I pause for the answer."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I have already stated that it is a matter with which the Government are not concerned, and it is for the Municipal Council to consider whether a meat stall could be allowed to continue there or not."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Since the municipality has not moved in the matter in spite of newspaper agitation and public meetings, may I appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister at least to care something or the susceptibilities of the Hindu population of Tiruvannamalai?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, the Government do not think that it is a case for their interference."

The distribution of taluk boards in each district.

* 32 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether every taluk in each district has a taluk board corresponding to it;

(b) if not, whether the Government have any idea of creating a taluk board for every taluk;

(c) how many taluk boards there are in Madura and Ramnad districts and whether the taluk boards correspond to the taluks in the districts;

(d) whether the right of electing their presidents is given to all the taluk boards in the two districts; and

(e) if not, the names of the taluk boards in which the president is nominated, and the reason for the same?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government will be prepared to consider applications on their merits.

(c) Four in each. The taluk boards do not correspond to the Revenue taluks.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Melur, Usilampatti and Dindigul in the Madura district and Devakottai in the Ramnad district.

The Government were advised that in the best interests of the administration of these taluk boards it was desirable that the Presidents should be appointed by Government.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"In regard to clause (b), may I know whether Government invited applications as to the creation of a board in every taluk?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Government do not propose to invite applications."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—"What do they mean by 'applications' in the answer to clause (b)? Do they mean applications from taluk boards or people or somebody else?"